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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT**26 MARCH 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Inland Empire – \$8.4 Million in Cocaine Found in Underground Bunker**

(U) Two people have been arrested after investigators found an underground bunker in the backyard of a Southern California home and seized a stash of about \$8.4 million in cocaine, the Orange County Sheriff's Department announced on 23 March. The discovery of the massive cache of narcotics, weighing about 140 kilograms — or roughly 300 pounds — came after officers stopped a vehicle along the 60 Freeway, the Sheriff's Department said. That stop was initiated by a joint operation being carried about by 12 different agencies, officials said.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [WGNO ABC](#)

(U) San Lorenzo – Teenager Arrested After Gun Found on Campus

(U) Authorities say a San Francisco-Bay Area teen was arrested after police found a loaded handgun in what's believed to be the boy's backpack while school was in session. Concerned students at Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo reported a rumor to school officials that the 15-year-old student had a gun. School officials notified the school's security resource officers and the school was put on lockdown. The department says officers quickly found the student in class and arrested him after a loaded semi-automatic handgun was found in a backpack near the teen. He was taken to juvenile detention.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Arizona – Operation Leads to 204 Arrests for Human Smuggling**

(U) Yuma – Special Operations and Intelligence Border Patrol agents detected and apprehended 204 suspects near the Imperial Sand Dunes, during a three-week Border Patrol operation between February and March. Agents from Yuma Sector's Special Operations Detachment and Intelligence Unit, along with El Centro Sector's Intelligence Unit apprehended 175 foreign nationals who illegally entered the United States. Twenty-nine additional suspects, many US citizens, were arrested for coordinating and facilitating human smuggling attempts.

SOURCE: 23 March 2018, [KYMA Fox 9](#)

(U) Mexico – Ambush of Mexican Marines Kill Five, Wound 12 in Border City

(U) Mexico City – A Mexican marine and four suspected gunmen were killed during a coordinated series of ambushes against marine patrols in a northern Mexico border city, authorities reported yesterday. The attacks on 24 and 25 March left a total of 12 marines wounded. Marines were ambushed three separate times in Nuevo Laredo, a city across the border from Laredo, Texas. In that shootout, three gunmen were killed. The gunmen had fake Marine uniforms and Marine markings on their vehicles. Nuevo Laredo is dominated by the Northeast Cartel, an offshoot of the Zetas cartel.

SOURCE: 26 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

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(U) NATIONAL**(U) Illinois – Redding Man with Loaded Gun, SWAT gear, and Bulletproof Vest Arrested**

(U) Chicago – A man with a loaded handgun, wearing a bullet proof vest and carrying a bag of SWAT equipment authorities believe was stolen from New York City police has been arrested at Chicago's busiest train station. Chicago police say 21-year-old Isaiah Malailua, from Redding, Calif., was arrested on the morning of 23 March at a Union Station ticket counter and charged with unlawful use of a weapon for wearing body armor. Cook County Judge John Fitzgerald Lyke set bail at \$100,000 and ordered Malailua to remain in the Chicago area.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US Levies Sanctions Against 19 Iranian Hackers

(U) Washington – On 23 March the United States issued sanctions and criminal indictments against an Iranian hacker network it said was involved in “one of the largest state-sponsored hacking campaigns.” None of the alleged hackers were direct employees of the Iranian government, but all worked at the behest of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), officials said. Nine of 10 named individuals were connected to the Mabna Institute, a Shiraz-based tech firm that the Justice Department alleged hacks on behalf of Iranian universities and the IRGC. The institute conducted “massive, coordinated intrusions” into the computer systems of at least 144 US universities and others.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [The Washington Post](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) France – Authorities Find Homemade Explosives and ISIS Notes on Belongings of Terrorists**

(U) Trebes – Three homemade explosive devices were found in the supermarket in southern France that was the site of a deadly attack by a man calling himself “a soldier” of the Islamic State or Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Also found were a 7.65-caliber handgun and a hunting knife. Searching of the perpetrators home found notes referring to ISIS that appeared to be a final testament, said a judicial official.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Libya – US Drone Strike Kills Two ISIS Leaders in Southern Libya

(U) Tripoli/Benghazi – US forces said they had killed “two terrorists” in an air strike in southwestern Libya on 24 March as part of efforts to deny militants a safe haven in the country's vast desert. The strike hit on the outskirts of the city of Ubari and was carried out in coordination with the internationally recognized Government of National Accord in Tripoli, the US Africa Command said in a statement.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Malaysia – Seven Alleged ISIS Members Arrested for Planning to Kidnap and Kill Police

(U) Kuala Lumpur – Malaysian authorities have detained seven militants, with suspected ISIS ties, who were planning attacks in the country. Members of the clandestine terror cell, which included two men working as janitors in Singapore, were planning to kidnap and kill policemen and attack non-Muslim houses of worship. The plot was uncovered after Malaysian counter-terrorism police detained the terrorists in a series of raids.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [The Straight Times](#)

(U) Nigeria – Boko Haram to Free One More Kidnapped Girl

(U) Maiduguri – Boko Haram extremists who abducted 111 girls last month in Nigeria's northern village of Dapchi are releasing one more girl, Nigeria's police chief said on 23 March. Leah Sharibu, 15, was held back during the 21 March prisoner release. She remained a prisoner because she is Christian and

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refused to convert to Islam, her mother said. Five other girls kidnapped at the same time are unaccounted for and are presumed to have died in a stampede when the girls tried to run away from their captors.

SOURCE: 24 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Somali – Militants Linked to al-Qa'ida Conduct Deadly Car Bombings in Somalia

(U) Mogadishu – Three explosions over four days in or near the Somali capital, Mogadishu, have left nearly 20 people dead and dozens more injured. Yesterday a car bomb exploded at a security checkpoint near the Interior Ministry on a road leading to the presidential palace in the capital. Authorities had thwarted two other suicide bombing attacks yesterday morning. Al-Shabab, an Islamist extremist group affiliated with al-Qa'ida, claimed responsibility for the attacks. The group, which has been behind bombings and other attacks in Mogadishu, aims to topple Somalia's Western-backed federal government.

SOURCE: 25 March 2018, [The New York Times](#)

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